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REVIEWS AND MISCELLANY.

NOTES ON THE CENSUS.

The following notes have been prepared in the Division of Methods and Results of the Census Office and given to the press by the Director of the Census. With his consent they are reprinted, the proof having been read in the Census Office as a guarantee of accuracy.

Total Population of the United States, June 1, 1900.

The United States now includes along with the main part, or continental United States, certain outlying districts, namely, Alaska and the recent insular accessions, Hawaii, Porto Rico, the Philippine Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. The Twelfth Census extended over only two of these outlying districts, Alaska and Hawaii, but the Census Office has obtained the best available information regarding the population of the other portions of the United States and prepared the following table showing the present population of the entire United States.

	<i>Population.</i>
Continental United States	75,994,575
Philippine Islands	6,961,339
Porto Rico	953,243
Hawaii	154,001
Alaska	63,592
Guam	9,000
American Samoa	6,100
Persons in military and naval service outside continental United States	91,219
United States	84,283,069

The estimate for the Philippine Islands is made by the statistician to the Philippine Commission in a letter to the Census Office. A census of the Philippine Islands was in progress in 1896 when the insurrection broke out and returns for two-fifths of the population were found stored in Manila. These were carefully tabulated and the foregoing estimate is based upon the results. The figure for Porto Rico is from the Census of 1899 taken by the War Department in consultation with the Census Office. The figures for

Hawaii and Alaska and for persons abroad in the military and naval service are from the results of the Twelfth Census. The figure for Guam is an estimate made in a report of the War Department and that for American Samoa an estimate reported to the Census Office by the Acting Secretary of the Navy.

The total population of the United States at the close of the nineteenth century was about eighty-four and a quarter million. As the population of the United States at the beginning of the century was about five and a third million, the nation has grown nearly sixteen fold in one hundred years.

There are but three countries which now have a greater population than the United States, namely, China, the British Empire and the Russian Empire. China and the British Empire have each of them probably between 350,000,000 and 400,000,000, or together nearly one-half of the total population of the earth. The Russian Empire with about 131,000,000 people has more than half as many again as the United States, and has been increasing during the century just closed with greater rapidity than any other European power. Its growth, like that of the United States, has been partly through the natural increase of its population and partly through great accessions of territory. It had about 38,800,000 people in 1800 and has increased nearly three and a half times during the nineteenth century. France, including its dependencies, is the fifth country of the world in order of population and has about eighty-three and two-thirds million people, or almost the same number as the United States. Of these over 25 million are in African dependencies, nearly 17 million in Asia, and 2 million in Madagascar. These five most populous countries together include over two-thirds of the estimated population of the world, which is placed by the best authorities at between 1,500,000,000 and 1,600,000,000.

Growth by Sections.

The United States, excluding Alaska and the recent insular accessions, may be divided into three main geographical areas, the West, the North and the South. The Western division as recognized by the Census Office extends from the Pacific to the eastern boundary of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico. The line separating the North and the South is the Potomac and Ohio rivers and the southern boundaries of Missouri and Kansas.

The per cent of increase of population in each of these areas has been computed by the Census Office for each ten-year period in the nineteenth century and a summary of the results is given below. A twenty-year interval has been used to make the table shorter and to avoid using the figures for 1870 when the census in the southern states was somewhat incomplete. The western division does not appear in the census tables until 1850, and it was not until 1860 that more than half a million people were living there.

PER CENT OF INCREASE OF POPULATION DURING TWENTY-YEAR PERIODS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

Years.	In the North.	In the South.	In the West.
1800-1820	94.1	68.5
1820-1840	93.9	57.3
1840-1860	94.7	60.2
1860-1880	61.9	48.4	185.6
1880-1900	48.7	48.5	131.5

The table shows that prior to the Civil War the northern States nearly doubled in population with each twenty years, while in the southern States the increase of population was only about two-thirds as great. Since 1860 the rate of growth in both parts of the country has been much less, but while the rate of growth in the North has steadily decreased, that in the South during the last twenty years has been slightly greater than during the twenty years from 1860 to 1880. During the last twenty years there has been no substantial difference in the rate of growth of the two sections.

In the following table the per cent of growth of these regions during each of the last two ten-year periods is given.

PER CENT OF INCREASE OF POPULATION DURING THE LAST TWO DECADES.

Years.	In the North.	In the South.	In the West.
1880-1890	24.8	20.1	71.3
1890-1900	19.0	22.4	31.9

These figures show that during the last ten years there was a rapid decrease in the rate of growth of population in the West, a less marked but decided decrease in the rate of growth in the North,

and a slight increase in the rate of growth in the South. For the first time in our national history the population of the South has increased somewhat more rapidly than that of the North. The rate of growth in the three divisions is far more nearly the same than it ever has been.

But if the comparison is limited to the States east of the Mississippi River, classing Minnesota and Louisiana with the Western States, the result is slightly different.

PER CENT OF INCREASE OF POPULATION EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI DURING THE LAST TWO DECADES.

Years.	In the North.	In the South.
1850-1860	33.2	16.7
.....
1880-1890	20.1	16.0
1890-1900	19.9	17.7

When the trans-Mississippi States are omitted, the rate of growth in the North is slightly greater than that in the South, but the present difference between the two sections in this respect is about half what it was between 1880 and 1890 and less than one-seventh of what it was between 1850 and 1860.

The frontier as a large area of rapid but intermittent growth is no longer an important factor in the progress of American population and the rate of growth in the several great areas of the United States is now nearly the same.

Population in Cities.

It was recently shown from the figures of the Twelfth Census that for the first time in our national history the South is growing in population as rapidly as the North. It is not clear at first how this deduction from the figures is to be harmonized with the well known facts that in the North the proportion of inhabitants living in cities is much larger than it is in the South, and that as a rule cities increase in population much more rapidly than country districts.

The proportion of inhabitants of the three sections living in large cities appears from the following figures :

	Total Population.	Population Living in Cities of 25,000 Inhabitants or more.	Per Cent of Total Population.
The North.....	47,379,699	16,196,580	34.2
The South	24,523,527	2,488,553	10.1
The West	4,091,349	1,033,179	25.3
Continental United States	75,994,575	19,718,312	25.9

In the North the proportion of the population living in large cities is more than three times as great as it is in the South. The population living in cities of over 25,000 inhabitants increased 41.0 per cent between 1890 and 1900, partly by the growth of the 124 cities of that size in 1890 and partly by the addition during the following ten years of 36 other cities to the list. The population of the country outside these cities increased between 1890 and 1900, 14.9 per cent.

A comparison in which the same cities are included at each decade is more significant, although even this takes no account of the annexation of suburbs by some of these cities between 1890 and 1900. The 160 cities of continental United States, each of which had over 25,000 inhabitants in 1900, increased in population 32.5 per cent between 1890 and 1900; the rest of the United States, excluding Alaska and the recent insular accessions, increased 17.1 per cent. That is, the large cities are growing with almost double the rapidity of the rest of the country.

That the per cent of the population of northern states living in large cities is nearly three times as great as the corresponding per cent in the South; that large cities taken collectively are growing nearly twice as fast as the rest of the country; and yet that the North has a rate of increase no greater than that of the South seems anomalous and almost paradoxical.

The following figures show that the apparent contradiction is not a real one. The population of the three great sections of the country, the North, the South, and the West, has been divided into five groups based upon the number of inhabitants in the city or town and the per cent of increase of population in each group between 1890 and 1900 computed. These five groups do not contain the same places at the two censuses, many towns and cities rising during

the ten years from one to another and swelling the apparent rate of growth of the group entered.

Population Limits.	Per Cent of Increase of Population Living in Places of Size Indicated, 1890 to 1900.			
	In the North.	In the South.	In the West.	In Continental United States.
25,000 and over	42.2	31.0	47.3	41.0
8,000 to 25,000..	22.7	26.9	17.9	23.1
4,000 to 8,000...	27.6	87.3	50.7	36.7
Semi-urban*...	27.9	44.4	46.5	33.0
Rural	1.2	17.9	22.0	9.4

* By semi-urban is meant an incorporated place with less than 4,000 inhabitants.

This table shows that the large cities in the North are growing much faster than those of the same size in the South, but that this difference is balanced by an extremely rapid growth of small towns and cities in the South and especially by the high rate of increase of southern rural population.

How far the slight growth of rural population in the North as a whole is influenced by the transfer of places classed as rural in 1890 to higher classes in 1900 cannot be told from these figures. They do show that the present growth of population is a resultant in the North of a very rapid growth of large cities, a slower growth of small cities, and a very slight growth in the country; and a resultant in the South of a rate of growth of large cities below the average for the country, balanced by a striking growth of small cities and an increase of rural population twice as fast as the average for the United States.

Growth East and West.

In a recent memorandum from the Census Office it was shown that the rates of growth in the South and in the North are now nearly the same. The following figures will show that the rates of growth of the country east and west of the Mississippi, classing Minnesota and Louisiana with the Western group, are also not very far from the same. In preparing the table Alaska and the recent insular accessions have been disregarded, and for brevity's sake a twenty-year period has been used.

PER CENT OF INCREASE OF POPULATION.

Period.	East of the Mississippi River.	West of the Mississippi River.
1800-1820	77.1
1820-1840	72.2	275.1
1840-1860	66.2	417.4
1860-1880	44.6	148.2
1880-1900	41.5	86.3

The table shows that east of the Mississippi River there has been a steady decline in the rate of growth with each twenty-year period, a decline that was most marked during the score of years from 1860 to 1880, as compared with the preceding period. In 1820 the total population west of the Mississippi was less than a quarter of a million (233,735), in 1840 less than a million (876,799). The most rapid growth in the Western region was during the twenty years immediately preceding the Civil War, when the population increased more than five-fold, reaching in 1860 over 4 1-2 million. Its rate of growth during the next twenty years was not much more than one-third the rate between 1840 and 1860, and its rate during the twenty years just ended was far less than during the preceding period. Between 1840 and 1860 the average rate of growth west of the Mississippi was more than six times that east of the great river, but during the last period the Western rate was but little more than double the Eastern rate. The following figures give the rates of increase for the last two ten-year periods.

PER CENT OF INCREASE OF POPULATION.

Period.	East of the Mississippi River.	West of the Mississippi River.
1880-1890	18.7	49.0
1890-1900	19.2	25.0

These figures show that during the last twenty years the rate of increase west of the Mississippi declined sharply, while east of the Mississippi there was a slight increase in the rate of growth. The difference between the two sections for the last ten years was less than one-fourth of the difference between 1880 and 1890. These figures, like those for the North and the South previously published,

show that a process of equalization in the rate of growth in different parts of the country is now in rapid progress.

The increase of population in the states east of the Mississippi River was 18.7 between 1880 and 1890, and 19.2 between 1890 and 1900. In the same area the increase in urban population, meaning thereby all places of more than 4000 inhabitants, was 53.1 per cent between 1880 and 1890, and only 37.2 per cent between 1890 and 1900. Both of these statements could not be true unless the population of places having less than 4000 inhabitants had been growing more rapidly in the last ten years than in the preceding decade. Such is the fact. Between 1880 and 1890 the population east of the Mississippi, excluding places of more than 4000, increased 4.9 per cent; but between 1890 and 1900, 8.7 per cent.

To throw further light upon this increased prosperity of the small towns and country districts during the last ten years, a study has been made by the Census Office of those counties which actually decreased in population at either decade, after making allowance for changes in county boundaries. Counties of this class are predominantly agricultural and usually have lost, through migration to more favored localities, the natural increase of their population by excess of births over deaths. Between 1880 and 1890 the counties east of the Mississippi which lost population extended over an area of 151,202 square miles, or nearly as great as New England, New York and Pennsylvania. This was about one-sixth (17.7 per cent) of the total area east of the Mississippi River. Between 1890 and 1900 the counties east of the Mississippi River which lost population extended over an area of 90,218 square miles. This is only about one-tenth (10.6 per cent) of the total area east of the Mississippi. The figures show that in this part of the country an area almost equal to that of New England lost population between 1880 and 1890, but gained between 1890 and 1900.

West of the Mississippi the changes were in the reverse direction, that is, the area losing population was slightly larger between 1890 and 1900 than it was between 1880 and 1890 (234,862 square miles as compared with 206,958 square miles). But in the country as a whole the area of counties losing population was over 30,000 square miles less in the last decade than it was between 1880 and 1890. In the North Atlantic group the per cent of area losing population between 1880 and 1890 was 26.8; between 1890 and

1900, 21.9. The corresponding figures for the other groups were South Atlantic, 1880-1890, 11.6 per cent; 1890-1900, 6.3 per cent; North Central, 1880-1890, 12.1 per cent; 1890-1900, 19.1 per cent; South Central, 1880-1890, 6.7 per cent; 1890-1900, 4.6 per cent; Western Division, 1880-1890, 12.9 per cent; 1890-1900, 8.6 per cent. These figures show that in four of the five divisions, all except the North Central, the increase of population was more widespread and general in the last decade than it was between 1880 and 1890. If the North Central division be divided into two parts at the Mississippi River, the per cent of area in the eastern part showing a loss of population fell from 20.9 in the earlier to 12.1 in the later decade. On the contrary, in the Western North Central the per cent rose from 7.9 in the earlier to 22.5 in the later decade. Further analysis shows that a gain of population in the last decade was reported from every county of Minnesota and North Dakota and every county but one of Iowa. In South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas, on the contrary, there were large areas, mostly in the western parts and sparsely settled, for which a decrease of population was reported. The tide of migration in 1890 had pushed up the slopes of the Great Plains farther than conditions warranted, and in the last decade the wave has been receding, depleting these areas and filling up the rural counties of such states as Iowa and Illinois. In Iowa the per cent of area losing population fell from 27.0 between 1880 and 1890 to 1.6 between 1890 and 1900. In Illinois it fell from 28.6 to 4.6. In other words, over about a quarter of each state the population decreased between 1880 and 1890 only to increase in the last ten years. In no other important states has there been so marked a change.

Migration Westward.

No feature in the history of American population during the nineteenth century has been more conspicuous than the tide of migration pushing westward from the Atlantic Coast toward the Pacific. There is no statistical information by which this current can be accurately measured, but important indications regarding its magnitude can be derived from comparing the state of birth with the state of residence, as reported to the Census Office. To get a summary view of the results the states and territories may be divided into those of the Atlantic Coast, including Vermont, Penn-

sylvania, the District of Columbia, and West Virginia, along with those that touch the ocean from Maine to Florida; the Central states, including all between the Atlantic Coast states and the eastern boundary of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico; and the Western states, extending from this line to the Pacific. The natives of the Atlantic Coast states living in the Central group were in 1880 not far from 3 million (2,890,938); in 1890 they were about 2 2-3 million (2,649,830); in 1900 they were less than 2 1-2 million (2,408,627). In the last 20 years the natives of the Atlantic Coast states living in the Central states have decreased by nearly half a million (482,811). While the number of easterners in the Central states has been declining the total population of the Central states has been rapidly increasing. In 1880, 11.0 per cent of the total population of the Central states were born in the Atlantic states; in 1890, 7.9 per cent; in 1900, 6.0 per cent.

The natives of the Atlantic Coast states living in the Western division were 238,165 in 1880; 362,097 in 1890; and 387,815 in 1900. This current of migration is still increasing, but the amount of increase in the last ten years was much less than in the period from 1880 to 1890. Although it has grown, the total population of the Western division has grown more rapidly, so that the residents of the Western division born in the Atlantic states were in 1880 13.5 per cent; in 1890, 11.7 per cent; and in 1900 only 9.5 per cent of the total population.

Those born in the Central states and living in the Western were in 1880, 309,193; in 1890, 703,564; in 1900, 981,142. This class constituted in 1880, 17.5 per cent; in 1890, 22.7 per cent; and in 1900, 24.0 per cent of the total population of the Western division. This current of migration, therefore, is growing both absolutely and relatively to the total population.

The foregoing figures show that migration from the Atlantic to the Central states is decreasing absolutely and relatively; migration from the Atlantic states to the Western states is increasing absolutely, but decreasing relatively; and migration from the Central to the Western states is increasing both absolutely and relatively.

Migration, North or South.

In the Census Office figures have been computed showing the migration from the northern states to the South and from the southern states to the North, so far as it is measured by a comparison

between the state of birth and the state of residence, the only available statistical measure. This migration may be divided into three classes: the migration northward of white persons born in the southern states; the migration northward of colored persons, practically all being negroes, born in the southern states; and the migration southward of persons born in the northern states. The number of colored persons born in the northern states is too small for the migration southward of this class to be important.

In 1890 there were in the northern states, meaning thereby all north of Mason and Dixon's line, the Ohio and the southern boundary of Missouri and Kansas, 904,689 white persons who had been born in the South. In 1900 the number had increased to 958,974, or 6.0 per cent. But in the meantime the number of white persons of southern birth living in continental United States had increased from 12,921,995 to 16,055,045. The proportion of white persons of southern birth and northern residence fell in the ten years from 7.0 to 6.0 per cent of the whole class of white persons born in the South.

In 1890 230,931 colored persons who had been born in the South were living in the North. In 1900 their number was 336,879, an increase of 45.9 per cent. Meantime the number of colored persons born in the South and living in continental United States had increased from 6,915,715 to 8,287,081. The proportion of colored persons of southern birth and northern residence increased in the ten years from 3.3 to 4.1 per cent of the whole class of colored persons born in the South.

These figures show that the migration northward of southern whites, while increasing in absolute amount, has relatively declined. The migration northward of colored persons has increased rapidly. The northward migration of southern whites, however, is still nearly three times as great in absolute amount, and nearly one and a half times as great relative to the population from which it comes, as the northward migration of the colored, a difference probably due in part to the better economic position of the southern whites, and in part to the fact that the centre of population of that class is nearer the border.

In 1890 there were 635,594 persons living in the South who had been born in the North. In 1900 the number had increased to 1,021,450, or 60.7 per cent. This current of migration is greater

in absolute amount than that of southern whites or southern negroes moving North, but over a quarter of a million less than the two combined. It is increasing much more rapidly than either. But the total number of persons of northern birth in continental United States is so great (in 1890, 31,933,974; and in 1900, 39,125,506) that the amount of this southward movement relative to the population from which it comes is less than the proportion for either of the return currents. In 1890 of all persons in continental United States born in the North 2.0 per cent were living in the South. In 1900 the proportion had increased to 2.6 per cent.

Estimates of Population.

The published results of the Twelfth Census giving the population of the United States have been generally accepted as trustworthy and correct. But in a few cities the officials or the press, dissatisfied that the count fell short of their expectations and predictions, have challenged its accuracy. These criticisms have usually been made in good faith and wherever sufficient evidence in support of them has been offered they have been carefully investigated by the Census Office. For the most part they have rested upon a discrepancy between the census figures and a directory estimate, the vote cast at a recent election, the city's prior rate of growth or the number of children of school age reported by a state school census. In considering the weight to which such objections are entitled the Census Office has examined thoroughly the average accuracy of such estimates with results stated in a census bulletin which has just appeared.

The study has been confined for the most part to the 78 cities having at least 50,000 inhabitants. It shows that in half of these cities the per cent of increase of population, 1890-1900, was not within 18 of the per cent in the same city, 1880-1890, a result due mainly to the sharp check in the rate of growth of large cities during the last ten years. The per cent of increase for all these cities taken collectively, 1880-1890, was 46.8; and 1890-1900 it was 32.5. This shows the impossibility of estimating the population of a city under existing conditions from its rate of growth between the two preceding censuses.

The path usually followed in estimating the population of a city is that taken by the city directory which often prints its guess in the

prefatory note. These guesses have been compared with the results of the census and in every case but one in 1890 or 1900 the directory estimate was found too large. In two-thirds of the cases the directory was over 10 per cent and in nearly one-third it was over 20 per cent in excess of the census count. Probably directory publishers as a class tend to include year by year a larger proportion of the city's population. Probably also a larger proportion of the city's business population is coming to reside in suburbs and thus a directory count of the business population is becoming a less accurate index of the resident population reported by the census.

As a basis for estimating the population of a city the vote cast is little, if any, better than the directory count. In Albany, Columbus and Dayton, there were less than four persons to a vote at the last presidential election; in Fall River there were more than 9 persons to each vote and in Atlanta more than 17.

The school census if accurate is better than any of the other three methods examined. But it is so frequently inaccurate that the method can seldom if ever be used with confidence.

It is now recognized that counting is more accurate than guessing, and for that reason it has supplanted the simple and cheaper method in almost universal use a century ago. The first step away from simple guessing was to count some unit such as inhabited houses, deaths, births, school children, or votes, and on this platform to hazard a guess. This was a long step in advance of simple guessing, but is not to be compared for accuracy with a thorough count. To challenge a census with estimates is like trying to appeal from a higher to a lower court. Persons wishing to see in more detail the evidence on which the foregoing statements rest are referred to *Census Bulletin No. 135*.

THE PRESERVATION OF THE PRINTED RECORDS BY THE NATION.

In the *Report of the Librarian of Congress for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1901*, two subjects are of especial interest. First, the official announcement to the public, which has previously been made by circular letters and through the professional periodicals to librarians and others, that the bibliographical dream of generations